Flight No.	Sector	Frequency
9W-611/9W-612	Calcutta-Guwahati-Calcutta sector	Now daily
9W-216	Third frequency on Calcutta-Mumbai sector	Daily
Induction of 21st/22nd Aircraft		
9W-333	Eighth frequency on Mumbai-Delhi sector	Daily
9W-723/9W-724	New sector Delhi-Varanasi-Khajuraho-Varanasi-Delhi	Daily
9W-825/9W-826	New sector Delhi-Hyderabad-Delhi	Daily
9W-334	Eighth frequency on Delhi-Mumbai sector	Daily
9W-375/9W-376	New sector Mumbai-Lucknow-Mumbai	Daily
9W-455/9W-456	Third frequency on Mumbai-Hyderabad-Mumbai sector	Daily

SAHARA INDIA AIRLINES

Sahara India Airlines is in the process of finalising the induction of turbo-prop aircraft, which will be utilised for short haul sectors. Sahara India Airlines plan to introduce flights to Gorakhpur, Allahabad, Jaipur and Udaipur from Delhi in the current financial year (1998-99).

एअर इंडिया को वित्तीय सहायता

167. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि एअर इंडिया ने सरकार से वित्तीय सहायता मांगी है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि विनिवेश आयोग ने सरकार से एअर इंडिया को 1000 करोड़ रुपये की राशि प्रदान करने के लिये सिफारिश की है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस दिशा में सरकार द्वारा अब तक क्या किया गया है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री अनंत कुमार): (क) और (ख) जी, हां।

(ग) एअर इंडिया सम्बन्धी विनिवेश आयोग पर रिपोर्ट सरकार के विचाराधीन है।

Extension of runway at Vijayawada Airport

168. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to take necessary steps for lengthening and strengthening the runway at Vijayawada Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present stage of the work in progress; and

(d) the likely date by which the work is to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has provided 79 acres of land for extension of runway from 6000' to 7500'. The State Government has also provided 50% of the estimated cost as interest free loan and the first instalment thereof was released in December, 1997.

(c) and (d) Under Phase—I, strengthening of runway has been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 8 crores and is likely to be completed by June, 1999.

Air services to Rourkela city

169. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rourkela Steel City which is at the nerve centre of the tribal region known as Chhotanagpur and the surrounding area could not be developed as there is no Air link to Rourkela and NRIs are not attracted for investment due to communication problem;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to connect Rourkela with Air link with the rest of the country;

(c) if so, what are the proposals before Government; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

(b) to (d) Rourkela airfield is suitable only for operation of smaller type of aircraft. Because of the shortage of suitable aircraft. Indian Airlines has, at present, no plans to air link Rourkela. Private operators with suitable aircraft are being encouraged to include new stations in their network including Rourkela, subject to viability.

Air services from Patna to major cities

170. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to connect all the major towns of Bihar, Assam, Orissa with Patna and other major cities of the country by air transport; and

(b) whether Government propose to connect Patna with Bhagalpur, Jamshedpur, Bokaro and Darbhanga by air?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.

(b) Bhagalpur, Jamshedpur, Bokaro and Darbhanga airfields are suitable only for operations with smaller type of aircraft. Becuase of shortage of suitable type of aircraft, Indian Airlines has no plans to operate to these stations. However, Private Operators with suitable aircraft are being encouraged to add new stations including these in their network, subject to viability.

Recommendation of Kelkar Committee

171. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee appointed to suggest guidelines for the privatisation of Air India, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.